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January 15, 2003.

To: Maribel Medina Group 1754 US Patent Office

Pages to Follow: 21

RE: Application no 09/998,222

Filed: 12-03-01

Attached is a response to the Office Action of October 16, 2002 including the Fee for added claims 26, 27 and 28.

Certificate of Transmission

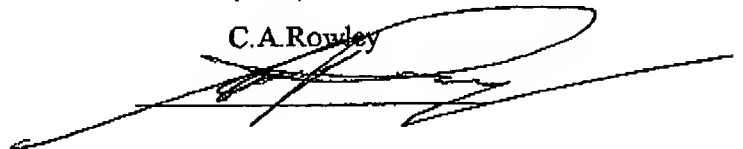
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In the United States Patent Office

In re
Application No. 09/998,222
Filing Date 12-03-01
Inventor de Lasa.
Art Unit 1754
Examiner Raynski
Att. Docket No. UWO7

#71B
1/17/3

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir: **Amendment**

In response to the office action of October 16, 2002 please amend this application as follows;

In the specification

The paragraph beginning on page 5 line 15 has been amended to read as follows

B1
Broadly the present invention relates to a regeneratable Nickel (Ni) catalyst particularly suited for a hydrocarbon reforming process, said catalyst comprising discrete Ni crystallites formed on a suitable support element by a several incipient wetness steps process and capable of withstanding at least 6 catalyst regenerations without significantly inhibiting it's catalytic activity in said reforming process, said Ni crystallites being positioned in the inner surface of said suitable support element. said crystallites having an average maximum dimension measured in any one direction in the range of between 5 and 1000 Å and a distribution on said support element of no more than 0.2 of said square meter (m²) of exposed nickel/ square meter (m²) of support surface.

The paragraph beginning on page 6 line 16 has been revised to read as follows

B2
Broadly the present invention also relates to a reforming process comprising reforming hydrocarbons in the presence of a catalyst in a reaction zone, said catalyst being Nickel (Ni) catalyst of discrete Ni crystallites formed on a support element by a several step incipient wetness process, said crystallites having an average size measured in any one direction in the range of between 5 and 1000 Å and a distribution on said support element of no more than 0.2 of said square meter of nickel exposed metal/ square meter of support selected from the group